

Operation "I Can"

Army Game Update

Deployment Prep

Tracing Army Green

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

February 2005

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# Soldiers

Land Combat  
Expo Edition

New Hot Topics  
Pullout  
PAGE 17





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A Soldier with the 1st Cav. Div.'s 2nd Bde. Combat Team covers fellow Soldiers during operations in Fallujah. — SFC Johannes Van Boers

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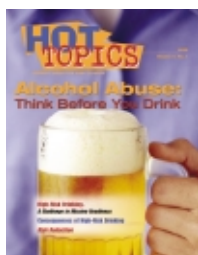
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• soldiersmagazine.com





A MAGAZINE'S masthead can tell a lot about an organization and its evolution — **Soldiers** is no different. We are honored to have at the top of our masthead the name of the Army's 19th secretary of the Army, Francis J. Harvey, who was sworn in on Nov. 19 at the Pentagon.

As our Army continues to fight the war on terrorism, we take a moment to reflect on the courageous and inspiring performance of the **Soldiers** who took part in the initial phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Heike Hasenauer was able to sit down with LTG Ricardo S. Sanchez as he discussed the role of V Corps in support of OIF.



Heike also takes us behind the scenes at U.S. Army, Europe's Land Combat Expo, where the USAREUR warriors gathered to exchange ideas and share knowledge of their profession.

As part of our presentation of the Army green uniform in last month's almanac poster, this month we chronicle the evolution of that famous uniform in Walter H. Bradford's piece, "Tracing Army Green."

And for a view of the Army from a completely different angle, don't miss SFC Tony Joseph's piece, "Blimp RAID," in which he takes us up in the Army's experimental airship.

Lastly, **Soldiers Online** has been redesigned and upgraded. We urge you to log on, and hope you'll find it easier to navigate with more features. Please tell us what you think!

**Rob Ali**  
Editor in Chief



## **Soldiers** The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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2003



NAGC Blue Pencil  
Competition  
2004



## Newfoundland Crash

I REALLY enjoy reading **Soldiers** each month, but I noticed that a date you used in the December "Army History" article is incorrect.

The article stated that on Dec. 12, 1984, 248 men of the 101st Airborne Division were killed when the DC-8 bringing them home from Sinai peace-keeping duty crashed in Gander, Newfoundland.

The year was actually 1985. I was in the Sinai from January to June 1985 with the 82nd Abn. Div., and they were our relief.

**MSG Billy C. Chaffin Jr.**  
via e-mail

## EIB vs. CIB

A CAPTION in the November article "Earning the EIB" talks about a Soldier receiving the "coveted" Expert Infantryman Badge, though he is already wearing the Combat Infantryman Badge.

I am sure the EIB course is very difficult, but it does not compare to what that Soldier must have endured in order to receive the CIB. In fact, I do not believe you can wear both. In my humble opinion, the CIB trumps the EIB and is the more "coveted" award.

**CW2 E. Spike Thiesmeyer**  
via e-mail

## Flower Power

THE November "Lifestyles" article "The Flower of Remembrance" talked about red poppies, but I noticed that the picture you ran was of a red hibiscus.

**LTC Jean Meacham**  
via e-mail

*Thanks for the correction. Given the lack of gardening expertise among our infamously nature-averse staffers, we're lucky the picture wasn't of a red carnation.*

## Fast Shadow

FIRST, let me say that I love **Soldiers** magazine. Having said that, I thought

you might find the following to be amusing – I did.

On page 35 of the November issue, the caption on the Shadow 200 picture states that the unmanned aerial vehicle leaves the launcher "with a force some 8,000 times that of gravity." While gravity is (technically speaking) not a force but an acceleration, a Shadow 200 with that type of acceleration would reach a Mach number of 457 two seconds after launch. The Space Shuttle reaches a maximum Mach number of 25 and the Apollo spacecraft topped out at Mach 36.

The bottom line is that the figure was either a typo, or the Army has solved the nation's space-launch problems.

**LTC B.G. Crawford**  
via e-mail

*All we can say is that we're also science-averse. Thanks for the information.*

## "Le Badge"

I JUST finished reading the November issue, and the photo caption on page 6 of "On Point" caught my attention.

The caption indicated that this was the first time U.S. troops had gone through the French commando school in Djibouti, but it was not the first time Soldiers had gone through a French commando school. The French military has several commando schools throughout the world, and many Soldiers have completed the course and won the coveted "Le Badge."

**SFC Tab Kurtz**  
via e-mail

## Ribbon Placement

I JUST received the December issue and while reading it I noticed that SGT Pedro Miranda — who will appear in the 2005 Almanac's uniform poster — was wearing the Global War on Terrorism ribbons in the wrong order of precedence.

I'm sure that this has already been

noticed by someone on your staff, but I just wanted to ensure that it didn't go unnoticed.

Keep up your great work.

**SFC J. Rivera**  
via e-mail

*Thanks to the several readers who noticed the error and took time to contact us. Fortunately, we caught the error and corrected it in time for inclusion in the Almanac.*



## Soldiers values your opinion

To comment, keep your remarks to under 150 words, include your name, rank and address and send them to:

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## Afghanistan

Soldiers from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment, conduct a raid in Afghanistan's Zabol province. The Soldiers were looking for suspected Taliban members, weapons and materials used to make improvised explosive devices that could be used against coalition forces.

— Photo by SPC Jerry T. Combes





## ▲ Korea

Soldiers load a Hellfire missile onto an AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

— Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth, USAF

## ◀ Iraq

Infantrymen of Task Force 1-27 Inf. and an Iraqi National Guard trooper search a Rubaydhah home during Operation Wolfhound Jab.

— Photo by SGT Sean Kimmons



## ► Iraq

Sgt. Avery Wills, a howitzer gunner with Battery C, TF 2-11 Field Artillery, lifts a refurbished desk down from the back of a truck to Iraqi Police officers at the Qaradara elementary school.

— Photo by SGT Sean Kimmons

## ▼ Afghanistan

SSG Brett Burstell and explosives-detection dog Astor check a vehicle entering Kabul Compound. Burstell and Astor are deployed with the 265th Air Defense Artillery Regt.

— Photo by SSG Phillip Witzke



## ▲ Iraq

Sappers from Co. B, 65th Engineer Bn., check out the location of an old improvised explosive device while another Soldier provides security along a main supply route within TF 1-27 Inf.'s area of operations.

— Photo by SGT Sean Kimmons





**Sanchez** on



LTG Ricardo S. Sanchez, former CJTF commander in Iraq, shares his thoughts about the war, and about what the Army accomplished at home and abroad since March 2003.

“T’S very hard for me to be on the outside looking in, after dedicating my entire being for 14 months to the combined joint task force and knowing I still have a division in Iraq, with Soldiers fighting and dying,” said LTG Ricardo

S. Sanchez, the former CJTF commander in Iraq and current commander of the Germany-based V Corps, whose 1st Infantry Division is in Iraq.

As the second anniversary of the liberation of Iraq approaches, Sanchez shared his thoughts about the war and what the Army has accomplished since March 2003.

### Upon Arriving in Baghdad

“When we arrived in Baghdad, everything was gone. There was no police force, no government. There were no schools. We had to build across military, diplomatic, information and economic lines,” Sanchez said. “We provided direct support to Ambassador Paul Bremmer, then the chief administrator in Iraq, through Central Command.

“Our Soldiers were put into a situation where they had to handle missions across all aspects of Iraqi society,” Sanchez said. Their instincts, based on their training and leadership development, contributed to the U.S. Army “fielding a really flexible, applicable force that was not afraid to take risks or engage in all these different areas, to

◀ Sanchez and then-chief administrator in Iraq L. Paul Bremmer speak to the media in December 2003, soon after Soldiers captured former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

# Iraq

Story by  
Heike Hasenauer





▲ Iraqi schoolchildren eagerly open new book bags provided to them during “Operation Crayon” at Halima al Sadeea Elementary School in Kirkuk.



the point where they achieved remarkable successes.”

The fact that Iraq was able to move forward in terms of its economy, its entire political infrastructure, with the establishment of city councils and national governments — due largely to Soldiers on the ground — is phenomenal, Sanchez said.

“Bremmer issued a policy directive that our force was to go out there and make [positive things] happen,” Sanchez said. The coalition rebuilt the electrical and oil infrastructures at the same time it performed security missions.

“Then, we just wanted to help the people, giving them an idea of what freedom

◀ One of the many glorifications to Saddam Hussein being removed in Iraq.

means and what democracy is all about — what it means to truly respect human rights, and what strength of diversity is,” Sanchez said. “All of that was exemplified by our Soldiers on the ground and in their daily interactions with the people of Iraq.

“As they built the Iraqi security forces, the ethic, both in terms of the democratic ideals that we bring and the individual Army value systems that we embrace and live by every day, were being imparted to these people. It was something they never experienced before,” Sanchez said.

“We have to be optimistic about the future of the country,” he said. “There’s absolutely no question that history will show very clearly the tremendous contributions of the American Soldier and the American military in standing this nation back up.”

### Attitudes Toward the Coalition

“It was unquestionable to me as I moved around the country, that the



“We just wanted to help the people, giving them an idea of what freedom means and what democracy is all about...”

Iraqis clearly understood the critical contribution that the coalition and the American service member was making to the stability of their country,”

Sanchez said.

“Just by nature, and their instincts, the Iraqi people are opposed to outsiders being in their country,” he added.

## Myriad Missions

The mission of the force Sanchez commanded was to restore the country’s crippled power plants and oil wells, conduct security patrols, distribute information leaflets, and operate Iraqi currency exchange convoys.

In the midst of all that, the coalition’s first priority was still to conduct offensive operations, and neutralize and destabilize terrorist influences, he said.

The desires of the 36 nations that participated in the coalition had to be considered as well. Rules of engage-

► Children in various Iraqi communities continue to receive school supplies from coalition forces.

ment differed among various countries’ armies, Sanchez said.

Dual intelligence networks had to be set up, and the contingents of soldiers from around the world had to be trained, equipped and housed.

Liaison officers had to be assigned, so unit commanders would get a real picture of what was happening on the ground and their subordinate

Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers, USMC



► Sanchez talks with Albanian soldiers at Mosul airfield in Iraq. The troops were part of the coalition force Sanchez commanded during his time in Iraq.



► SSG Birtta Gassner of the 950th Trans. Co. oversees the offloading of 1st Armd. Div. equipment in Bremerhaven, Germany, following the division's return from Iraq.

Bram de Jong



leaders would be clear on the commanders' intent.

"Morale was not an issue during the entire time I was deployed to Iraq," Sanchez said. "We were never able to get around the issues of summer 2003 when the first indications of prisoner abuse surfaced, but once we improved the Soldiers' quality of life and started to field force protection, morale was not an issue."

## Capturing Saddam

"We got him."

Bremmer's statement to media representatives on Dec. 14, 2003, was





“As Baghdad goes, so goes the country.  
So we had to place the bulk of our  
resources in Baghdad.”

direct and simple. But everyone knew what it meant. Saddam Hussein, Iraq’s brutal former president, had been captured.

U.S. military officials reported that some 600 Soldiers of the 4th Inf. Div. and special operations forces — in a raid called “Operation Red Dawn” — found Saddam in a “spider hole” in the basement of a farmhouse near his hometown of Tikrit.

For the U.S.-led coalition forces, Saddam’s capture came as the greatest gift, after nine long months on the ground, Sanchez said.

## Fighting a New Enemy

“Following Saddam’s capture, the situation in Iraq became more complex,” Sanchez said. “The anti-coalition elements wanted to destroy us and those who would help us. They began attacking their own security forces, and the kidnappings began.”

The coalition began dealing with daily attacks, smugglers, anti-coalition elements, terrorist extremists, former regime elements and foreign fighters. At the same time, “people told us freely: ‘We don’t want you here, but we don’t want you to go,’” Sanchez said.

The coalition couldn’t fight the new enemy with technology alone, Sanchez said. “We had to build an

intelligence capability using every intelligence asset in America, not only in the military.

“Baghdad is where we had to focus all elements of national power,” he said. Six million people live there. And, “as Baghdad goes, so goes the country. So we had to place the bulk of our resources in Baghdad.”

## Coalition Accomplishments

In April and May 2004 the Army experienced the largest troop movement since World War II, when Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division redeployed from Iraq and Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. entered Iraq.

Coalition forces immediately



➤ PFC Daniel Loo and SSG Bounnan Sisana of the 1st Armored Division rest between missions in their Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

◀ Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop prepare to move out after being inserted on a quick-reaction force mission in Iraq.





▲ Iraqi land mines -- part of the 50,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition being destroyed at various locations -- are prepared for destruction.

“stood up” quality education systems in Iraq, a priority for the Iraqi people in May and June, from the university level all the way down to local schools, Sanchez said.

“Our Soldiers rebuilt schools to allow the people to salvage the school year,” Sanchez said. They contributed to modernizing the schools and eliminating glorifications to Saddam Hussein. They even set up parent-teacher associations, something that had never before existed in the Iraqi school system.

They helped shop owners reopen their businesses, by helping them procure small-business loans. They helped to establish satellite TV communications, which had not been allowed before the war, and worked with farmers to re-establish the

► Soldiers on patrol maintain vigilance as they tactically move through cities and towns in Iraq.

country’s date industry, Sanchez said.

“The contributions that American service members have made in the war on terror are remarkable,” Sanchez said.

## Iraq Today

Today, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers continue to fight and defeat insurgents who are creating instability, while at the same time continuing to work the stability and support missions and develop the Iraqi security

forces, Sanchez said.

“As we look to the future, the insurgency will continue to attack — to try to destroy the coalition and separate us from the people, break the will of the coalition and the American public and force a departure from Iraq,” Sanchez said.

But average Iraqi people are not being given an alternative to the democratic ideals that the coalition represents and is striving for.

“The only thing the insurgents can promise the people is a return to the brutality of the Saddam leaders, and that, I believe, is well known across the country. So there’s not popular support for the insurgency,” Sanchez said.

At the time this article was written, Iraq’s national elections were a short time away. Sanchez said the elections would “probably be the last major event that will seal the fate of the country and get it moving, unequivocally.”

## Outlook for the Future

“I believe we’ll see a government system that’s democratic-like, because the people want it,” said Sanchez. “You only have to go back 30 to 35 years, before the Saddam regime came into power, to realize how possible that is.

“Iraq was a very vibrant country. It





► A Soldier with the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team covers fellow Soldiers during urban operations in Fallujah.

SFC John Charles Van Boers

was a very advanced culture in the Middle East," Sanchez said. "It was an education-loving culture, not tied to religious fundamentalism.

"The Saddam regime, with its brutality, created some havoc within that society," Sanchez added. "I don't believe that in the end we'll see an American-style democracy in Iraq. I think we'll see something that's democratic-like, because that's the instinct of the people in Iraq. There were tremendous contributions that women were making in that country.

"There's an internal, currently existing force that will work very hard to counterbalance that religious fundamentalism," Sanchez said, "because they've made a contribution in the past, and they're more than willing to make a contribution in the future."

## America's Influence

The war in Iraq "was about freedom and democracy and the elimination of a repressive regime," Sanchez said, "and about Iraqis being able to decide how to form their own political structures, their own society and their own economy to the best advantage.

"I think we have to come in with the ideals that America embraces and allow the nations and the societies the freedom to mold themselves, based on their culture and their value systems, and achieve a democratic-like environment," Sanchez said.

## Parting Notes


"I know in the operations I've participated in, democracy has never been an imposed solution," Sanchez said. "America's service members and the armed forces from other nations have provided a very good model and



example of what life can be like in a democratic-like environment.

"We have to embrace the instincts that are being built by our officer and NCO educational systems," Sanchez said. "The training standards and the discipline that we advocate are invaluable for success. In the end, no matter how you're fighting and in what environment you're fighting,

success rests with the small unit and with the individual Soldier.

"If they're proficient, flexible and adaptable, and have a respect for the dignity of our enemy, then we will succeed," Sanchez said. "It takes a total commitment to our Army values in these toughest of times to be able to achieve that success." 



# EUROPE'S



# Land Combat Expo

Story by  
Heike Hasenauer

U.S. ARMY, Europe's, third Land Combat Expo, held in Heidelberg, Germany, was especially significant as 2004 drew to a close, "because the Army in Europe has been so deployed up to now," said USAREUR commander GEN B.B. Bell.

As the premier professional-development program for Soldiers stationed in Europe, according to expo project officer MAJ Tammy McKenna, the event brought together commanders from across the Army,

including all of USAREUR's general officers.

They included the former commander of the combined joint task force in Iraq, LTG Ricardo Sanchez, and LTG William Wallace, commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, home of the Center for Army Lessons Learned, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The senior officers shared their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, among other locations, with scores of attendees from U.S. and allied nations. Army transformation was also a focus.

USAREUR commanders addressed changes that will take place over the next decade. [See related story: "Transforming the Army in Europe."]

"We tried to build the expo around the selected theme, 'USAREUR at War and Transforming,'" said McKenna. So the expo focused largely on USAREUR's support to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Through guest speakers, video presentations and exhibits, the expo provided detailed information about the state of USAREUR and its contributions to the war on terror.

It also featured 265 information booths that showcased USAREUR units, support and recreational programs, and new combat equipment, McKenna said. Outdoor exhibits included aircraft and other weapon systems, and training simulators.

## New Equipment

During the three-day event, attendees could check out the weapons and equipment of allied armies, and

◀ U.S. Army, Europe, commander GEN B.B. Bell met with Soldiers from throughout his command who attended the Land Combat Expo at Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village.



Heike Hasenauer





Debi Dawson of the Program Executive Office, Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va., shows off some of the equipment her agency is helping to field.





SFC Rebecca Burt

learn more about their units and services.

Soldiers had the opportunity to handle the British SA-80 rifle, a hand-held thermal imager, and various pieces of ordnance, plus other types of equipment.

Exhibits of technology being developed for the Army included a prototype of a 3-D, night-vision imaging display for Humvee drivers. Water purification and filtration systems, the most modern containerized kitchen, caffeine-laced chewing gum and a new medical bag for combat lifesavers were other items on display.

At a booth manned by Michael Golden, an adviser to Soldiers from the Southern European Task Force in Italy, visiting Soldiers learned how they can more quickly get equipment they need in combat environments. Golden is a member of the Army Materiel Command's Field Assistance in Science and Technology program.

## Soldiers Educating Soldiers

As a customer-service representa-

▲ Among the items of greatest interest to Soldiers attending the Expo was the new Army Combat Uniform. Here, 1LT Rebecca Silves of the 26th Area Support Group checks out the ACU display.

► A Soldier examines the British army's SA-80 rifle.



Heike Hasenauer



# Transforming the Army in Europe

Story by Heike Hasenauer

tive for deployed OIF Soldiers, SPC Jose Ortiz spread the word about what the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Center in Pirmasens, Germany, can offer Soldiers.

Ortiz responds to requests for medical supplies and ships requested items within 24 hours.

CPT Kel Kratzer, an audiologist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, provided information about what he said is the fourth most prevalent disability plaguing redeployed Soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan — hearing loss. It's due largely to the incessantly running generators needed to operate equipment in hostile environments, Kratzer said.

New combat earplugs, which filter out loud noises without preventing Soldiers from hearing, are not currently an issue item. They are, however, available as a purchase item.

Various classroom sessions highlighted the service and sacrifices of USAREUR Soldiers, who collectively are known by military officials in Europe as "Freedom's Expeditionary Force."

Recently returned Soldiers from V Corps' 1st Armored Division in Germany and SETAF in Italy formed panels to discuss OIF battles and personal experiences.

## A Grand Opening

A performance by the U.S. Army, Europe, Band and Chorus opened the expo. Dressed in period uniforms the performers sang such songs as "This is the Army, Mr. Jones."

Introductions of units serving in OIF and OEF were followed by musical salutes. A slide show traced the Army's history in Europe from World War II to the fall of the Iron Curtain and U.S. involvement in the Balkans.

**"WE NEED the U.S. Army in Europe,"** said Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander, Europe, and commander of U.S. European Command. "But we need a different kind of Army in Europe.

"I fully believe that U.S. Army, Europe, Soldiers will be the future Soldiers of a new 'European-African Command,' because of problems that exist with fragile democracies in that part of the world," Jones said. Rotational units sent on six-month deployments, wherever the USAREUR commander wants them to go, could be platoons, companies or battalions, Jones said. And they'll be deployed to places they never imagined they'd be.

"They'll move around on high-speed vessels and by rail, and prepositioned equipment will be a very important part of the future capability of the Stryker brigades," Jones said.

## Global Rebasing

"Your Army in Europe, under U.S. European Command, will be more effective 10 years from now than it is today," said GEN B.B. Bell, USAREUR's commander.

Ten years from now, two-thirds of the current 62,000-member USAREUR force will have been repositioned to the continental United States, he said.

The remaining Soldiers will become "full-up units of action," with a headquarters and task-force theater-support command, expeditionary training center, seven task-force brigades or battalions, a Stryker-brigade combat team and a task-force airborne brigade from the Southern European Task Force in Italy.

The latter is currently only two-thirds the size it should be, he said.

Although the numbers will be smaller, Bell said, "There are more infantry Soldiers in a Stryker brigade than in a mechanized-infantry division. So, in terms of infantry, we'll be bringing in a division plus, which will be partnered with great European allies and great support from Germany, our

host nation."

When asked about the impact transformation and troop reductions in Germany will have on U.S.-German relations, Bell said, "If I were on the moon looking at Germany, I could say, 'Yes, we'll become distant.' But, I'd ask you, 'How many Soldiers do we have in England?' About two," he said, exaggerating the low number. "But, we remain close. Numbers don't make a relationship. Trust and like-mindedness do."

Nevertheless, "of all U.S. Army forces in Europe, we'll still have the greatest number in Germany," Bell said. "And we'll be able to partner — sending small teams out to train with German soldiers."

The Army plan is to build up current military facilities at Grafenwöhr and Kaiserslautern, Germany, near Ramstein Air Base, and in Vicenza, Italy, home of the 173rd Abn. Bde. Some expansion at those bases has already begun. [See *Soldiers*, April 2004, "Building Up Graf."]

Meantime, the Army continues to look elsewhere for sites for joint forward-operating bases, Bell said. The JFOBs, similar to U.S. military bases in the Balkans, will accommodate rotating units from the States for six-month periods.

USAREUR will continue to help protect the Army's ideal "of a place where people can live together based on the goodness in their hearts, not by the color of their skin, religious beliefs, cultural background or anything else," Bell said. "That's what I want for my grandkids."

## Role of NATO

"Our allies want to know how they can be more useful to us in our transformation," Jones said.

"There are currently 2.4 million Europeans in uniform," he said. "But only 3 percent are expeditionary forces.

"We need only a fraction of the available troops from the 26 NATO-member nations," Jones said. "Knowing which ones we need is critical; it's not about the United States going into an isolationist stance, projecting forces from the United States with the idea that we don't have to ask permission."





◀ Among the organizations represented at the Expo was the Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. Here, Soldiers examine some of the center's new and upcoming field rations.

▶ PFC David McCoy of the 1st Armored Division tests the prototype of the XM-8 assault weapon, which is currently being tested as a replacement for the M-16 and M-4 rifles.

Bell updated attendees on the command's continuing support to 91 countries and its involvement in Iraq since V Corps led the fight in southern Iraq with 10 separate brigades.

He also stressed USAREUR's efforts to preserve and expand NATO as the "formal alliance of like-minded nations that are fighting the terrorist threat.

"We need to engage Russia through partnership and Iran through strength," Bell said.

### Numbers of Troops Deployed

Roughly 50,000 of USAREUR's 62,000 Soldiers have deployed to Iraq since the war began, Bell said.

SSG Manuel Torres-Cortes







As of September 2004, 133 of the command's Soldiers had died in Iraq.

"The deaths and more than 1,200 Purple Heart injuries are the highest USAREUR has had to deal with since World War II, and it's required a maturation on the part of all of us," Bell said.

Also in September, 16,500 USAREUR Soldiers, led by the 1st Inf. Div., were in Iraq. SETAF Soldiers were in Liberia to provide security, Bell said.

USAREUR also had some 160 Soldiers in Afghanistan, 125 of them as part of a NATO quick-reaction force in Kabul, Bell said.

Early in 2005, 4,500 Soldiers from SETAF's 173rd Airborne Brigade were to deploy to Afghanistan. Some 2,600 Germany-based Soldiers were to deploy to Iraq. 🇩🇪

◀ PFCs Jason Rayle (*right*) and Brian Zahn of the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry Regiment, compete on one of the driving simulators on display at the Expo.

➤ Among the displays of foreign equipment at the Expo was the Polish army helicopter, which attracted the attention of some of the event's younger attendees.







SSG Michael Moyers

▲ Children hold paper and pens donated through Operation I CAN as they gather at a checkpoint.

# Operation “I CAN”

Story by Margot Cornelius

*Because You CAN Make A Difference*

“OPERATION I CAN” is not just another clever Army acronym; it’s short for “Iraqi Children Assistance Network.”

I CAN connects thousands of Iraqi children to people throughout the world who donate school supplies. Thanks to deployed Soldiers, these supplies reach schools in villages and cities throughout Iraq.

Many donors have implemented the project in their local neighborhoods, lobbying for support from others.

Individual donations of \$3.59, a small amount by U.S. standards, pay the average cost of one Arabic schoolbook and have significantly increased Iraqi children’s opportunities to learn.

Donors can buy the books online at [www.operationican.com](http://www.operationican.com).

I CAN is the brainchild of 1LT William Diefenbach of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, who spearheaded the effort after meeting with teachers and students at five schools in the Tikrit area. Although the unit’s predecessor, 1st Bn., 44th ADA, repaired and rebuilt the schools, they were still empty inside. There was a need for school supplies.

“As I listened to the teachers and some of the students talk to us about some of the things they wanted and needed, the idea for the I CAN operation just clicked,” Diefenbach said.

I CAN has outgrown the initial five schools it targeted and has spread

I CAN has outgrown the initial five schools it targeted and has spread throughout Iraq as other units came on board to distribute school supplies in their areas of operation. Giving school supplies is just one way donors support the project.

throughout Iraq as other units came on board to distribute school supplies in their areas of operation. Giving school supplies is just one way donors support the project.

Diefenbach approached Malayin Publishers, a publisher of Arabic-language books, about carrying a special online catalog of Arabic children’s books that donors could purchase. The publisher agreed and has made the catalog available to online shoppers ever since.

“Since the fall of the old regime, teachers’ salaries have increased

dramatically. This is encouraging more people to become teachers. At the same time the quality of education has improved. Textbooks are now devoid of repeated references to Saddam Hussein and Ba’ath-Party propaganda, and allow students to analyze more than memorize what they read,” Diefenbach said.

Meanwhile, at an Army mailroom in Schweinfurt, Germany, an I CAN poster caught the eye of Barbara Caiado, a family member whose husband is assigned to 1st Bn., 26th Infantry, another unit distributing I CAN supplies in Iraq.

“I came up with the idea to make a German Web page for the unit,” she said.

After an article appeared in the local Schweinfurt newspaper, local German citizens called by the dozens wanting to donate everything from shampoo to toys, Caiado said.

“There’s been a great response from the German community. Many of them have experienced war and know what’s needed,” she said.

I CAN relies on the support of donors to help administrators at about 2,000 schools in the Tikrit area alone, where Diefenbach is stationed. The growing need for school supplies has been spurred by reforms in the Iraqi education system as more children are

Margot Cornelius works in the 280th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office.



SSG Michael Moyers



- ▲ A TF 1-26 Inf. Soldier hands out I CAN supplies to children at a checkpoint near Samarra.
- Children clutch gifts and supplies donated through Operation I CAN.
- SFC Widmark Quashie (left) and Chaplain (CPT) Mark Shelton of TF 1-26 Inf. open a donated I CAN box outside FOB Brassfield-Mora in Samarra.

SSG Michael Moyers



attending school.

Soldiers have distributed more than 100 boxes of donated school supplies throughout Iraq and are gathering more from donors across the world. Besides the faceless donors who faithfully mail their packages, there are 124 contributors listed on the [www.operationican.com](http://www.operationican.com) Web site. This list includes individuals, families, schools, churches and other organizations that have become regular donors. 📧

**To join this effort, mail donations to:**

Headquarters and HQs. Battery  
4th Bn., 3rd ADA, 1st Inf. Div.  
Operation I CAN  
C/O 1LT W.A. Diefenbach, FOB Danger, OIF II,  
APO AE 09392



For more information, log onto  
[www.operationican.com](http://www.operationican.com).





**1954**  
Men's AG-44 wool serge winter uniform is introduced.

**1958**  
Army launches first U.S. space satellite, Explorer I.

**1959**  
Women's AG-44 wool serge winter uniform is introduced.

**1960**  
OD-33 wool serge winter uniform is phased out.

**1961**  
Communist East Germany builds Berlin Wall.

**1964**  
Year-round AG-334 tropical poly-wool uniform is introduced.

**1965**  
U.S. ground-combat units arrive in South Vietnam.

**1967**  
Washington, D.C., is site of largest anti-war demonstration.

**1973**  
The draft ends: All-Volunteer Army is introduced.

**1979**  
AG-415 poly-cotton shirt with shoulder marks enters service.

**“T**HE American Soldier requires and deserves a uniform he can wear with pride. We must offer a uniform that is military, distinctive and dignified,” GEN Matthew B.

Ridgway said in 1955.

With many Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia — and wearing desert tan uniforms, because they provide the best camouflage for the environment — one might wonder why the Army's traditional Class A, or “Army Green,” uniform has survived for 50 years.



## New Uniform

When World War II ended in 1945, there was no Army green. America's eight million Soldiers returned home in olive-drab, or OD, uniforms. Wartime dress soon became peacetime work clothing and, because of that, there was no uniform that expressly represented the Army.

Postwar Soldiers wanted — and recruiters needed — a new uniform. The waist-length OD wool jacket became an interim solution when the 1946 Doolittle Board made officer and enlisted uniforms similar.

A decade would pass before the Army green uniform made its debut.



▲ Army Green-44 wool serge coat showing its service. It was made in 1955, issued in 1970 and worn until the wearer's promotion in 1980.

— Courtesy SFC Alan T. Bogan (Ret.)

# Tracing

Story by Walter H. Bradford



## New Color

In their search for a new uniform color, Army officials requested that it be attractive, distinct to the service and relate to the Army's past. The old Army blue would be too similar to the Navy's and the Air Force's new uniforms. Scientists and fashion experts alike recommended gray-green, and green had been the distinctive color for rifle units back to Revolutionary times, so the development of a new green uniform began.

Walter Bradford is a museum curator at the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Leslie J. McNair in Washington, D.C.



## Classic Design

A timeless design would ensure that Army green became a tradition. To better represent the modern postwar Army, a beltless semi-fitted coat became the adopted style, similar in cut to the officer's tropical worsted semi-dress uniform, first introduced in 1942.

The breast and skirt pockets of the old service coat remained, but the defined waist and flared skirts of the belted officer's blouse were gone.



Combat veterans reclaim their green. Vietnam returnees exchange khaki uniforms for Army green uniforms in December 1967.







◀ Even “The King” wore Army green. SGT Elvis A. Presley was discharged from the Army at Fort Dix, N.J., on March 5, 1960.

## Historical Transition

Changing to Army green proved difficult, but rapid. While the Army had to procure new uniforms, it had to get as much wear as possible out of the old uniforms. At the same time, Soldiers in the ranks had to project a uniform appearance.

The transition from OD was completed in three phases. After authorizing an Army green purchase in 1956, the following year the Army began issuing recruits one AG and one OD uniform, the former for off-duty wear only. The next year, recruits received only AGs, then the duty uniform. The ODs were retained for off-duty wear.

By 1960, olive drab was gone. The only uniform was Army green.

## Women's Uniform

Women in the Army weren't initially issued Army green. The Uniform Board of 1949 had provided different uniforms for women, recommending a more fashionable ensemble that would attract new female recruits.

In 1951 Hattie Carnegie designed new winter Taupe-121 wool serge uniforms in the up-to-date style of calf-length skirts, accented waists and brimmed hats. But in 1959 female Soldiers also began wearing Army green.




▲ Female Soldiers began wearing the Army green uniform in 1959.

## Little Change

Army green is one of the longest-surviving uniforms in Army history. The winter AG-44 wool serge became all-season AG-344 poly-wool tropical in 1964 and AG-489 poly-wool serge by 1990, with the tan-46 cotton shirt now the AG-415 poly-cotton with shoulder marks.

The men's service cap left by 1978, along with the 1962 women's service hat and the 1972 black beret. Even when the new black beret replaced the old garrison cap, the uniform remained Army green.

Army green is a tradition for generations of Soldiers. For 51 years, it's been the uniform image of the U.S. Army. 

**1980**  
Women's AG-434 maternity uniform is introduced.

**1985**  
Army tan-445 (khaki) uniform is phased out.

**1989**  
Berlin Wall falls, marking the end of the Cold War.

**1990**  
AG-489 poly-wool serge uniform is introduced.

**1991**  
Operation Desert Storm begins in Southwest Asia.

**1995**  
Operation Joint Endeavor begins in Bosnia.

**1998**  
Same-size male and female chevrons are introduced.

**2000**  
The black beret is introduced.

**2001**  
Pentagon and World Trade Center are attacked.

**2003**  
Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.

# Green







# COE: Rebuilding

Story by Thomas O'Hara

Civilians on the battlefield don't ask why they must sometimes put themselves in harm's way, because they know the work they're doing is extremely important.

SINCE early 2003 more than 2,000 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilians have deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Serving four-month, six-month and one-year assignments, they work with their military counterparts on engineering projects to rebuild the infrastructures of these countries.

In January 2004 the Corps established the Gulf Region Division, a provisional command operating in

Iraq. It's composed mostly of civilians who have volunteered from Corps district offices around the world.

The idea of working side-by-side with civilians in a battlefield environment is something that initially takes a little getting used to, said MAJ Eric Stor, operations officer for the Restore Iraqi Electricity Directorate, operating in Baghdad. "But I'd serve with these folks any time."

Stor said civilians on the battlefield don't ask why they must sometimes put themselves in harm's way, because they know the work

Thomas A. O'Hara is a public affairs specialist for the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.





◀ A tanker takes on oil from the Mini-Al Basrah offshore terminal, which is supplied with Iraqi oil thanks to projects undertaken by the COE and its partners.

▶ An Iraqi worker cleans the turbine housing of a power generator at the Bayji power plant. Thousands of Iraqis are working with the COE to increase electricity production throughout Iraq.



Mitch Frazier

▶ Work is going on around the clock at the Qudas power plant, north of Baghdad, to beef up Iraq's power supply.

▼ An Iraqi worker grinds a plate on a metal support structure at a military base in eastern Iraq.

Thomas O'Hara



Mitch Frazier



# ing Iraq

they're doing is extremely important.

"Despite reports of convoys being attacked and people being killed by improvised explosive devices, Corps employees know they need to get their boots on the ground, too, just as Soldiers do, to complete projects, and they don't hesitate to jump into the lion's den," said Stor.

When the Corps was first tasked to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq, then-Chief of Engineers LTG Robert Flowers directed that deployed personnel wear the DCU so they could be readily identified as friendly forces and help convey the message





Thomas O'Hara



Thomas O'Hara



Thomas O'Hara



◀ Ken Cooper (*in hat*) and Russ Broich (*with back to camera*), both of the COE's Omaha District, talk with Iraqi engineers at a grain elevator in Mosul.

◀ Terry Williams, an environmental specialist with the COE's Mobile, Ala., District, inspects a landfill area in Baghdad's "Green Zone."

▼ Roland Schumate, a COE quality-assurance and control supervisor, briefs MAJ David Bitner on restoration efforts at the Haditha Dam.

▼ For the first time since 1990, the Haditha Dam is able to operate at full capacity thanks to turbine restoration and transmission-line installation projects managed by the Corps.



that U.S. Soldiers and civilians are partners in the coalition's efforts to rebuild and stabilize Iraq.

When hostilities intensified during the spring of 2004, that decision was validated as civilian and military personnel were often targeted by terrorist groups in Iraq.

According to then-GRD commander MG Ronald Johnson, the uniform served as a daily reminder for Corps employees of the significance of the mission and the adherence to Army values.

"You bear a responsibility to Soldiers you sit next to in the dining hall, who are risking their lives every day [out on the streets of Baghdad, Falluja and elsewhere]," he wrote in a letter to employees in May 2004.

"They are an essential part of our

total force here," said BG Thomas Bostick, who became GRD's commander in June 2004.

Since the early days following the liberation of Iraq, and especially when hostilities escalated in April 2004, the fortitude of these volunteer civilians was tested as several forward-operating bases came under constant indirect fire, a GRD official said.

"It takes some time to adjust to mortar rounds landing in your vicinity, but you still have work to do," said Nola Conway, who has served three tours in Iraq, working in logistics and public affairs areas for the Corps.

Danielle Stephens, serving as a construction manager for the divisions' Central District in Baghdad, has been working with 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers and Iraqi planners to





Alicia Embrey

restore the water and wastewater systems in Baghdad. While project schedules have been affected by the activities of insurgents, Corps employees have continued to work.

"The constant threat is not something I dwell on, since there is so much work to do," said Stephens.

Fortunately, the Corps has thus far not had a civilian casualty during the rebuilding effort, but civilians serving in the OIF theater have not escaped hostilities, officials said. On Christmas Eve 2003, engineer Gary York was in a convoy that came under attack north of Baghdad.

York, whose regular job is as a senior controller for the Gavins Point Dam in Yankton, S.D., was serving with the RIE team and returning to camp when his three-vehicle convoy

▲ COE contractor personnel use a bulldozer, metal shielding and high-pressure water hoses to battle an oil-well blaze in southern Iraq.

was attacked. He escaped the assault with shrapnel wounds to his head and shoulders, but two security personnel in the convoy were killed.

Another Corps employee, Ghassem Khorsorownia, a technical specialist in seismic engineering from the Corps' Sacramento District, was also injured in a convoy attack in September 2003.

Both employees later received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Defense of Freedom for their injuries, and both plan to return to Iraq. York volunteered for his second tour in early 2005. ■

## Corps Successes in Iraq

SINCE early 2003 COE employees in Iraq have worked with their Iraqi counterparts and both coalition and multinational organizations to restore services and facilities in Iraq. Their successes include:

- Adding nearly 1,800 megawatts of energy to the Iraqi power grid (one MW is enough to support 3,000 Iraqi homes).
- Building more than 1,200 electricity-transmission towers and replacing or restoring more than 5,300 miles of conductors in transmission lines throughout Iraq — enough to stretch across the United States twice.
- Helping bring the Haditha hydro-electric dam back to full operational capacity for the first time since 1990.
- Capping oil fires in southern Iraq and working to restore the country's oil-export system.
- Helping the country beef up its oil exports to an average of 2 million barrels per day.
- Raising the domestic oil-fuels refinery capability from zero to 50 percent of the country's need in less than a year.
- Undertaking or supporting \$12.6 billion worth of construction to the Iraqi infrastructure.
- Building or restoring more than 40 training facilities, military bases, and police and fire stations throughout the country.
- Building or restoring more than 500 schools, 52 clinics, 10 fire stations, sewage-treatment plants, railways, roads and airport-terminal facilities; and
- Coordinating with Iraqi ministries to develop intern-mentor programs with Iraqi engineers for long-term engineering solutions in Iraq.

— Thomas O'Hara



For more information on the Corps mission in Iraq, go to [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).



# Deployment **PREPARATION**

## **DESTINATION: IRAQ**

Story and Photos by Beth Reece

**W**HETHER Soldier or civilian, for individuals deploying without a unit, the gateway to Southwest Asia is the CONUS Replacement Center at Fort Bliss, Texas.

“We ensure everyone is prepared for deployment — from the civilian contractor and government civilian to the Soldier who has already served a tour in Iraq,” said LTC Philip McChesney, commander of the Army Reserve’s 360th Replacement Battalion, which mobilized in January 2003 from Myrtle Beach, S.C., to run the CRC.

The replacement battalion processes customers through the CRC, but preparing individuals for deployment is a collective effort shared by various Fort Bliss organizations. Medical and dental, personnel, finance and legal specialists, and trainers all support the mission.

“We’re here to reduce stress, not increase it,” said McChesney. “Each person who comes through here is deploying to a hostile theater and we owe it to them to prepare them the best we can.”

Capacity at the CRC is 350 personnel, though it has accommodated more than 400 individuals at once. Civilians and contractors now make up some 60 percent of personnel flowing through the CRC. The CRC’s doctrinal mission is to replace casualties and other losses overseas, but that requirement has been less critical than officials anticipated, so the CRC can focus on validating Soldiers

“We’re here to reduce stress, not increase it. Each person who comes through here is deploying to a hostile theater and we owe it to them to prepare them the best we can.”







▲ Deploying personnel receive enough equipment to fill nearly two duffel bags.





◀ CPT Brandi Conner checks a Soldier's teeth for cavities or problems that could later result in medical evacuation.

Medical issues that could result in an emergency in the combat zone or are determined to be harmful enough to make an individual nondeployable are treated on the spot — even if it means extracting teeth.

CRC training recently increased from one to two weeks. Along with first aid, weapons familiarization, and chemical and biological training, personnel scheduled to deploy are now brushing up on land navigation, convoy operations, traffic-control procedures, and vehicle and personnel searches. They also get up-to-date information on the Iraqi culture and on how to deal with improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance.

Trainers include a 36-member team from the Army Reserve's 104th Division and 10 contractors with prior military service. The content for training materials comes from Army manuals and such sources as the Center for Army Lessons Learned, subject-matter experts and veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We want training to be as relevant and theater-specific as possible, and we do everything we can to prepare people to deploy to Southwest Asia," McChesney said.

and civilians whose units are already deployed.

The process begins with medical and dental checkups. Though active-duty personnel receive frequent exams, civilians and reserve-component Soldiers don't always have access to health care or affordable health insurance.

"If you're in Iraq with a broken tooth or cavity that's causing problems, the commander has to pull you from your job and detail other Soldiers to provide a security escort to get you to the nearest dental facility," McChesney said. "Evacuating someone out of theater is a big issue."



▲ Shots are updated for every Soldier, government civilian and contractor deploying to Iraq.

◀ The range of inoculations given at the CRC covers virtually every disease someone might be exposed to.







◀ **Mark Offett, a contract instructor, helps a Soldier properly fit his protective mask.**

Training individuals differs from training whole units, he added.

“We can’t collectively train by saying, ‘All of you are in a convoy together and you need to work as a team,’ because individuals going through the CRC are not part of a team. They will be spread out among various units in the theater,” McChesney said.

Trainers do, however, impart skills that help individuals integrate with their units’ existing teams.

Training is preceded by a stop at the Fort Bliss Central Issue Facility, where everyone is outfitted and equipped for deployment. Soldiers get one-and-a-half duffle bags of equipment, from desert camouflage uniforms and sleeping bags to mosquito netting and entrenching tools.

Department of Defense civilians get the same items as Soldiers, minus weapons and MOPP gear. Contractors get the same items as DOD civilians, minus desert camouflage uniforms.

Sending Soldiers and civilians with different backgrounds and experience through the CRC together has eased the process rather than complicated it.

“Some civilians and a few of the military folks are putting this equipment together for the first time. Veterans and the civilians who have prior service are all eager to pitch in and help those who need it,” McChesney said.

The CRC process is a comfort to people like Vietnam veteran Jim Samples, a civilian employee with Resource Consultants Inc.

“It sure is different from Vietnam. We didn’t do anything like this back then — we just piled in a group and went,” he said.

“It would be a burden on the government if we went there and weren’t prepared,” said Homer Brown, a civilian employee of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service. “The Soldiers are there to protect America. In fact, most of us are volunteers going on our own accord to help support the Soldiers.” 🇺🇸

## Deploying People, Equipment

**W**ITH the Army’s longest runway, a \$26 million rail facility and a state-of-the-art deployment facility, Fort Bliss, Texas, is one of the Army’s 15 power-projection platforms.

“We’re sending units out and receiving them in a professional way, using first-class facilities,” said Rick Roy, traffic manager for the post’s Unit Movement Branch.

Opened in August 2002, the air-deployment facility is equipped to process about 1,000 people a day. In its first year, about 26,000 Soldiers, government civilians and contractors flowed through the facility.

Personnel awaiting deployment spend about two hours at the facility before boarding a plane.

“Our folks greet them, ensure their names are on a flight manifest, feed them, and then the commanders say farewell,” Roy said. “This isn’t a place to mingle.”

Should flights be delayed, sleep and shower facilities are available. Additional walls can also be pulled out to provide privacy for meetings or briefings.

At the start of the war, Fort Bliss could process only 350 people a day for deployment and the departure ramp could accommodate only three aircraft at a time. Space is now available for six C-5 or eight C-17 cargo aircraft.

The new rail facility also speeds the deployment process. Contractors can now load up to 350 rail cars a day, opposed to the previous limit of 125, when loading occurred at nine different locations across the installation.

“Folks who left Fort Bliss from the old facilities are amazed when they return through the new ones,” Roy added. “The feedback has been rewarding.”

Fort Bliss was named runner-up for a Deployment of Excellence Award last year. — *Beth Reece*







# Blimp

Story and Photos by SFC Antony Joseph

# RAID

Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment System



▲ The A-170 blimp — here following a Maryland highway on the way toward Washington, D.C. — is capable of the sort of long-endurance flights vital for aerial reconnaissance.

◀ During the recent demonstration flights, the blimp operated from a cornfield adjacent to Freeway Airport in Bowie, Md.

EXPERIMENTS conducted to enhance Soldiers' equipment and protection have always been a critical part of military efforts to keep the Army relevant and ready to fight and win wars. So, it should come as no surprise that the military is experimenting again.

Melding already available technology — a nonrigid airship, or blimp, and the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment, or RAID, system — the JLENS project office recently demonstrated the capabilities of a free-flying mobile aerial reconnaissance platform over the Washington, D.C., area. JLENS, which stands for Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor, conducted the experiment in partnership with ARINC Engineering Services LLC and the American Blimp Corporation.

During the week-long demonstration, the airship flew a 24-hour endurance flight over the Pentagon, and also supported a joint-force protection mission.

"The A-170 airship is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration to fly at altitudes up to 10,000 feet, but can fly higher if needed," said ARINC's Raymond W. Berhalter. "Even at that height, using the RAID system's surveillance cameras and sensors, the airship can provide a clear and detailed view of the activity on the streets below and yet stay out of the range of many weapon systems." The airship is currently flown by a pilot, but it can be adapted to fly unmanned.





▲ The A-170 casts a shadow while flying low over the terrain it surveyed in suburban Maryland.

◀ Blimp pilot Carl Daly checks in with ground control during the flight to Washington. The airship can also be adapted to fly unmanned.

The airship is filled with helium, she said, which is an inert, nonflammable gas.

Along with the airship's force-protection and surveillance capabilities, it can potentially be used to lift cargo, Rogers said.

"The airships can transport materiel and equipment internationally and potentially land on water, making them a viable alternative to other, more expensive means of transportation," she said. "Propelling the helium-filled balloon uses less energy than conventional jet engines and is therefore more cost effective."

The RAID system is currently deployed to support troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The existing system, however, is a combination of cameras and surveillance equipment positioned on high towers and tethered, un-

manned blimps.

"Height, endurance, maneuverability and stealth are key to good aerial reconnaissance," said Glenn Beach of the American Blimp Corp. "By using a RAID-equipped airship, the military could fly a controlled, quiet orbit over an area like Fallujah, day or night, and be able to locate insurgents placing explosive devices or setting up ambushes."

This information could then be sent via the ground station to the Soldiers on patrol, Beach said. The ability to move from area to area allows the airship to track targets and hampers the enemy's ability to locate the ground station.

"And, at about \$5 million, it is a lot cheaper than other surveillance aircraft," Beach said.

Although the Army has no current plans to purchase airships, Rogers said placing RAID on an airship could represent "the next step toward a mobile force-protection platform and capability." 🚩



It's an extremely survivable form of air transportation, said Pam Rogers, a spokeswoman for the JLENS project office. "The helium-filled balloon portion of the airship is not highly pressurized," she said. "Bullets won't burst the airship; it can actually remain buoyant for hours after suffering such a puncture."



# The National Army Museum

Story by Heike Hasenauer

**W**ITH the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recent contract award to architect David Childs of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP, the Army is a giant step closer to losing its distinction as being the only one of the armed forces without a national museum.

More importantly, the Army will have one nationally recognized museum in which to showcase its history to visitors from around the world. Its target home in the Washington, D. C., area draws millions of visitors annually to the museums of the Smithsonian Institute, Army officials said.

Groundbreaking for the estimated \$200 million museum complex, which will cover 55 acres and include a \$20 million museum support center and parking area, is expected to take place in 2006, with construction of the support center.

That facility will house the museum's offices and other administrative areas, said Nicole Robinson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Center of Military History, which will staff the museum.

Groundbreaking for the actual museum, a 255,000-square-foot facility that will boast "the largest collection of U.S. Army artifacts and art works" will take place in 2007, Robinson said.

The museum support center will be completed in 2008.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army will be the first museum to tell the story of the Army from the earliest days of the colonial militias to the present day, Robinson said. It will represent military veterans of every

ethnic background and from every region of America.

It will reveal little-known stories about the role of blacks, American Indians, Latinos and women, all of whom have played important roles in Army history.


State-of-the-art exhibits and programs are expected to attract an estimated 1 million visitors annually, Robinson said. Film presentations, interactive exhibits and a variety of high-tech simulators will help bring the Army's history to life.

Exhibits will also showcase the Army's peacetime contributions, including its humanitarian-relief efforts following natural disasters in the United States and abroad, Robinson said.

Besides multimedia theaters, an

auditorium-lecture hall, galleries and exhibit spaces, the museum complex will boast a store, restaurants, classrooms and meeting spaces. Its campus will include a parade ground, a 400-seat outdoor amphitheater and outdoor exhibit halls, Robinson said.

Founded in 1936, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP has completed more than 10,000 projects in more than 50 countries and is responsible for the design and construction of some of America's tallest buildings, including the 4.6-million-square-foot, 109-story Sears Tower in Chicago, Robinson said.

Childs most recently drew acclaim as architect of the "Freedom Tower," the tallest structure to be built at the former site of the World Trade Center in New York, she said. 



Visitors will enter the new museum through a dome highlighting the Army's legacy.



# Sharp Shooters

*Hurricane Ivan — the fourth major hurricane of the 2004 season — made landfall near Gulf Shores, Ala., and later looped through Florida, Louisiana and Texas.*

*In these images, Jonas N. Jordan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District documents the role that Soldiers, DA civilians and Army contractors played in the post-hurricane clean up. 🇺🇸*



▲ A Humvee of the Alabama Army National Guard passes a sailboat pushed ashore by the hurricane.







◀ Near Pensacola, Fla., a car lies partially buried in sand pushed ashore by hurricane-generated high seas.

▼ Also in Pensacola, workers for LJC Defense contracting install temporary roofing on a hurricane-damaged home.



▲ Prime-power Soldiers SFC Gary McAdams (left) and SPC Keith Lake from Fort Lewis, Wash., inspect a generator in Mount Vernon, Ala.

➤ Corps of Engineers Omaha District employees load a truck with tarps that will be used for temporary roof repairs in Escambia County, Ala.

◀ Port Charlotte, Fla., was among the many communities ravaged by the hurricane.



Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to: **Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Digital images should be directed to: **soldiers@belvoir.army.mil**. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.



# The Former Spouses' Protection Act

**T**HE Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act is one of the most misunderstood areas concerning military rights incident to a failed marriage. Congress created this federal law in 1982 to provide relief for qualifying former spouses of both active duty and reserve-component members. It preserves benefits that normally terminate after a divorce – to include exchange, commissary, medical care, theater, distribution of retirement pay, child support and coverage under the Survivor Benefit Program.

## Rights prior to divorce

Before addressing the FSPA, it is noted that all military benefits for a non-military spouse continue as long as the parties are married, even if they are separated. Should the non-military person's ID card expire, the Soldier cannot deny renewal. The family member may simply request a new card under the provisions of Section 2M, AR 600-8-14.

After divorce, the children of the military member continue with all of their benefits without regard to the FSPA. Normally, as long as the soldier has ID benefits, the un-emancipated children retain all benefits until age 21 or, if full-time college students, until age 23.

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.



## Divorce & FSPA

It's critical that the parties understand the FSPA prior to entering into a separation-property-settlement agreement and divorce, because some rights must be addressed in the divorce and, if not, will be lost forever. FSPA rights are federal law and cannot be expanded by state courts.

The FSPA benefits are based on a scale of the couple's years of marriage that overlapped the Soldier's active-duty years of creditable service. For reserve-



component Soldiers, the time of service is computed based on the accumulation of sufficient points to constitute a “good year” of service. To simplify the statute, the benefits are presented in escalation of years of service that overlapped active-duty years, falling into categories “10/10,” “20/20/15,” and “20/20/20.”

## 10/10

This indicates a marriage of at least ten years that overlapped 10 years of active-duty service. The FSPA provides no benefits for divorces obtained prior to satisfying the 10/10 years period. For divorces after the 10/10 period is achieved, the non-military spouse may obtain a state-court decree that distributes a portion of the Soldier’s military-retirement pay, and file the decree with the Defense Finance and Accounting Center in Cleveland, Ohio, to obtain involuntary direct payments on a monthly basis.

## 20/20/15

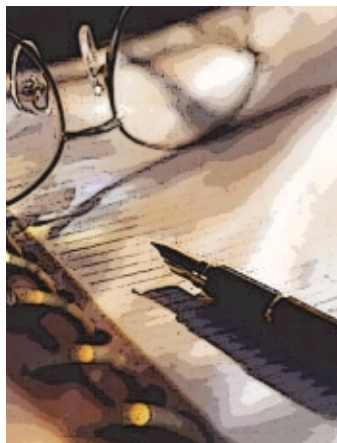
This indicates a marriage of at least 20 years coupled with 20 years of creditable service with at least 15 years of overlap between the marriage and years of service. In addition to the noted 10/10 benefit, the statute provides medical benefits for un-remarried former spouses, based on the date of divorce.

## 20/20/20

This indicates a marriage of at least 20 years with 20 years of creditable service that overlapped each other for at least 20 years. Marriage during retirement does not count. Former spouses who complete 20/20/20 prior to divorce retain all of their military benefits. Remarriage will terminate benefits, but if the new marriage ends in divorce or death, some military benefits may be reinstated.

## Special Note

There is no statutory right to 50 percent of a Soldier’s retirement pay. The FSPA contains a 50-percent figure as the maximum it permits as involuntary collection from the disposable retirement pay. “Disposable



retirement pay” is the dollar amount remaining after subtracting SBP payments, debts to the government and offsets for disability pay. Recovery of a portion of the Soldier’s retirement pay as a property distribution will not exceed 50 percent of the stated remainder. The FSPA never awarded nor has it established a formula to award retirement pay. It simply agreed to honor state court orders and only up to the FSPA limit.

## What is SBP?

The survivor benefit plan is a form of annuity that allows both active and reserve members to provide continued income to beneficiaries after the retiree’s death, when retirement pay is discontinued. If the Soldier is married at the time of separation processing, the maximum amount of SBP must be taken unless the spouse waives all or agrees to a lesser amount in writing. If the Soldier is divorced at the time of retirement processing, he or she is not required to obtain SBP. But a service member may request the coverage for a former spouse or may be ordered to obtain it in a separation agreement or by court decree.

Once a Soldier is retired, he or she may not initiate the SBP nor can a court order its creation. SBP is available for only one spouse; it cannot be split between present and past spouses.

There are many aspects to the FSPA, separation and divorce that a qualified attorney can properly address during an appointment consultation. Do not rely on rumors and gossip. Make an appointment to see your Legal Assistance attorney.



Most commissaries feature sections specifically for single Soldiers



Single servings for single Soldiers

## Single?

### COMMISSARY IS YOURS, TOO

YOU don't have to be married — or even cook — to use the Defense Commissary Agency. Commissaries offer items commonly available at retail grocery stores and supermarkets, but at lower prices. Most commissaries feature sections specifically for single Soldiers that offer:

- ≡ snacks;
- ≡ health, beauty and personal items;
- ≡ batteries;
- ≡ vitamins and over-the-counter medicines;
- ≡ ready-to-eat meals, frozen pizza and dinners;
- ≡ fresh fruit, vegetables and meats; and
- ≡ foods from all over the world.

The commissary accepts most credit and debit cards, as well as checks.

— Defense Commissary Agency

## Books

### ARMY WIFE AUTHORS

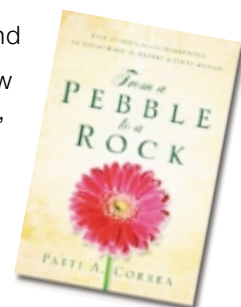
#### "FROM PEBBLE TO ROCK"

THE wife of a Fort Eustis, Va., Soldier has decided to tell a side of war that doesn't receive much publicity — the story of mothers and wives left behind when their sons and husbands deploy.

Patti Correa, whose husband, SFC Edward Correa, is a truckmaster with the 155th Transportation Company at Fort Eustis, has written "From a Pebble to a Rock," in which she tells the true-life stories of wives and mothers forced to deal with life when their husbands and sons deployed.

"Usually we just hear the story about the Soldiers," said Correa, whose book was released by Xulon Press in October. "The Soldier's story is important, but we need to tell the story of the wives and mothers on the home front."

The 80-page book begins and ends with Correa's story and tells how she was able to go from a "pebble" to a "rock" as a military spouse. The other chapters of the book tell the stories of other military wives and mothers, spanning several generations and wars.



Even though the book was intended for female audiences, Correa's husband says the book is valuable reading for anyone involved with the military or interested in what life is like for the people who are left behind.

"This book gives you a different perspective on the unique strengths of women everywhere, from all walks of life," he said. "They didn't choose to be in that position, but they gathered that inner strength and got through the hard portions of their lives."

— SSG Russell Bassett, Fort Eustis, Va.,  
Public Affairs Office

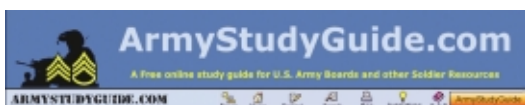


## WISHES FROM HOME

Oasis Media Production has launched the “Wishes from Home” campaign at [www.sharedvideomoments.com](http://www.sharedvideomoments.com). The campaign enables family members of Soldiers stationed abroad to send their heroes free “video postcards.”

Oasis Media Productions typically offers **sharedvideomoments.com** as a pay service for people to document weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones — then share them online. Through “Wishes from Home,” families can submit up to 10 minutes of footage, which will then be uploaded to a Web page assigned solely to that video. Families and Soldiers can access their Web pages for up to six months after videos are uploaded.

— Oasis Media Production



Heading to the promotion board? Check out **ArmyStudyGuide.com**, a free online resource that covers subjects ranging from Army history and the Geneva Conventions to physical security and uniforms.

The site also features links to promotion cut-off scores, Army regulations, field manuals, more than 200 cadences, schools, counseling resources and more.

*Heading to the promotion board?*

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

DECIDING which records to keep and which to toss can be confusing. While personal situations may influence how long certain records should be kept, the following is a general guideline for saving financial documents.

RECORD	TIME TO KEEP
Tax returns and records	Seven years
Paycheck stubs	Until receiving your annual W-2 form
Retirement records	Keep quarterly statements, then match with annual summaries. Keep annual summaries until accounts are closed.
Real-estate records	As long as you own the property, then keep a copy of purchase and sale agreements indefinitely.
Savings and investment statements	Keep quarterly statements until you receive all annual statements, then keep until accounts are closed.
Will and trust documents	Indefinitely
Insurance policies	As long as they're in effect.
Utility bills	Until the next statement arrives.
Credit-card receipts and statements	Until next statement arrives, or for seven years if tax-related expenses are documented.
Automobile titles	Until vehicle is sold or traded.
Guarantees or warranties	Attach to purchase receipt and keep until expired or item is discarded.

— Fort Belvoir, Va., Credit Union



# Army Game Update

Story by Lori Mezoff | Photos by MAJ Chris Chambers

**S**INCE July 4, 2002, almost 4 million people have registered to be virtual Soldiers in the online world of the “America’s Army” computer game.

The game gives young Americans the opportunity to “step” into a Soldier’s boots and explore, through virtual scenarios, Army life from basic training to combat deployments.

Conceived and managed by the Office of Economic Manpower and Analysis at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., “America’s Army” is distributed free by the Army to give players the chance to explore training and education as integral elements of a Soldier’s development.


In the game, players explore individual and collective training events from Initial Entry Training to the Special Forces Qualification Course. As players successfully “complete” each course, they gain new capabilities and can embark on adventures ranging from assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division to direct-action special-forces missions.

“The game is largely an educational tool, that is packaged in a fun and engaging way,” said COL Casey Wardynski, the Army Game Project originator and director, and OEMA director. “Our overall goal for the

Lori Mezoff works in the America’s Army public affairs office.







The game gives young Americans the opportunity to “step” into a Soldier’s boots and explore, through virtual scenarios, Army life from basic training to combat deployments.

▲ Realistic scenarios of Soldiers in action worldwide are what make the Army Game so popular with young people, developers say.





◀ Game players are introduced to a variety of characters who help them work their way through basic Soldier skills.

▼ Virtually every aspect of a Soldier's training — including medical evaluations — is represented during the course of the game. The various levels introduce players to a variety of Army job skills.



game is to open a new channel for communicating with Americans about soldiering. In the game, young adults can explore our training, our units and our operations, as though they were in the Army."

By engaging players' imaginations and immersing them in a virtual Army experience, the game has placed soldiering front and center within popular culture, Wardynski said.

Gamers have completed more than 16 million Internet downloads of the game and its upgrades. They've spent some 60 million hours "completing" more than 600 million virtual "missions" ranging from airborne training at the Joint Readiness Training Center to the rescue of humanitarian-aid workers threatened by terrorists.

Soldiers are also drawn to the game because of its realism and fun factor. Since Soldiers are the Army's ambassadors, when they register to play "America's Army" they can also register to carry the Army Star in the game by providing their AKO or other military e-mail address.

To date, about 6,000 Soldiers have registered to carry the star and have achieved a sufficient level of standing in the game to have the star associated

with their game personas. When these Soldiers play "America's Army," the star identifies them to other gamers as Soldiers who can provide actual Soldier stories to other gamers through an integrated player-chat tool.

Players now host Internet game fan sites around the world. They provide more than 1,200 community game servers to host online play. Given this level of activity, it is not surprising that 29 percent of young Americans ages 16 to 24 report that "America's Army" is one of their leading sources of positive awareness about the Army.

"America's Army" has exceeded our expectations and proven the value of games as a medium for communicating Army messages," said Bob Strahler of the U.S. Army's Brand Group at the Pentagon.

Recruiters are now using the game in local tournaments to spark the interest of potential recruits. They also incorporate the game in their

delayed-entry program to sustain enthusiasm of new recruits through organized tournaments and competitions. In this way recruiters can use the game to emphasize the importance of teamwork, leadership and communication in the Army.

"The game works so well because it brings out the kind of young men and women we're looking for — competitive, motivated — people who want challenges," said Dale Terry, APA chief of the Pittsburgh, Pa., Recruiting Battalion.

The America's Army Event Support Web site ([www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com)) also





▲ As players progress through the game, they're required to assist others who have been "wounded" or "injured."

provides a ready resource for those interested in hosting or creating game events. At this site recruiters, Soldiers and anyone else interested in hosting a game can obtain the necessary information and resources. Those resources include banners, game disks and tournament prizes, as well as access to support staff to assist in creating, managing and publicizing events.

"One of our key goals is to ensure that the game represents a current view of the Army and its operations," said Christopher Chambers, deputy director of the project. "There is a great deal of interest in special forces, and we built the SF version to bring more attention to units that are in high demand in the war on terrorism."

In "America's Army: Special Forces" players progress toward the goal of wearing the green beret by completing progressive individual and collective training.

Agencies ranging from the U.S. Navy to national laboratories now

Agencies ranging from the U.S. Navy to national laboratories now apply the "America's Army" platform for such things as mission rehearsal and training, and the development of new combat systems.

apply the "America's Army" platform for such things as mission rehearsal and training, and the development of new combat systems.

For example, materiel developers at the U.S. Army Armament Research Development and Engineering Center use "America's Army" to model future weapons and fire-control systems.

The Talon explosive ordnance disposal robot training device is the first major system to emerge from

this work. Using "America's Army" development tools, ARDEC has developed Talon models to train EOD teams in the use of this new system.

"America's Army" is an ongoing effort that will continue to expand in the breadth of occupations incorporated into the game and the depth of experiences Soldiers confront and dominate, Wardynski said. "Just as the Army is a dynamic organization, the game will remain a dynamic platform through which young Americans will be able to learn about the Army." 🎮



◀ Game developers use a variety of techniques to capture the movements of live actors for later digitization and inclusion in the game.

▼ The game is the result of teamwork among Soldiers, civilian game developers and others, all of whom are dedicated to the game's realism.



For game details and system requirements, visit [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com).

# New Limbs, New Hope

**“T**WELVE years ago, **SSG Chris Cummings** was a full-time bartender, dispensing drinks to patrons on a beach in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was having a lot of fun, but not making much money.

Cummings, a member of the Army Reserve's 478th Civil Affairs Battalion in Miami, took a second job at a Fort Lauderdale laboratory that manufactured artificial arms and legs.

He soon gave up bartending, and a year after joining the prosthetics lab, he became a partner in the business. Cummings later began his own prosthetics company, but had to close the business when his unit was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now, as a way to help amputees in Iraq, Cummings has teamed up with CPT Steve Lindsley, a certified prosthetist with the Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Monroe, La., and a member of the Canton, Miss.,-based 112th Military Police Bn. Together, the two Soldiers have identified more than 60 Iraqi amputees, many of them children and teenagers, who need new limbs.

The two Soldiers work at the Grey Wolf FOB in Baghdad's International Zone, taking measurements for the construction of new limbs for Iraqis in the program.



“CPT Lindsley came up with the idea of starting a free prosthetics clinic in Iraq for local people, regardless of their age. However, most of the amputees coming to the program have been young men,” Cummings said. “The captain's civilian boss at MRC, Chris Wallace, supports our effort by providing materials. The Army has helped by giving us the time to help amputees and a facility to work in.”

The two Soldiers work almost every day at the Grey Wolf Forward Operation Base in Baghdad's International Zone, taking measurements for the construction of new limbs for Iraqis in the program.

Cummings, who was scheduled to go home in early October, chose to stay in Iraq and help more amputees.

“I promised a lot of people I was going to help them — I can't go back on my promises,” Cummings said. 🇺🇸

SFC Clarence Kugler is with the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion. The U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office also contributed to this article.





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